

THE SWORD OF THE LORD

and of John R. Rice

"And they cried, The Sword of the Lord, and of Gideon." Judges 7:20.

An Independent Religious Weekly, Standing for the Verbal Inspiration of the Bible, the Deity of Christ, His Blood Atonement, Salvation by Faith, New Testament Soul Winning and the Premillennial Return of Christ. Opposes Sin, Modernism, and Denominational Overlordship

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Inspiration of The Gospels 'I WILL LOVE THEE, O LORD, MY STRENGTH'

By Dr. F. M. McConnell

Editorial In "Baptist Standard" — Reprinted By Permission

Jesus did not leave any writings. All that is contained in Matthew, Mark, Luke and John was written many years after the death of Jesus. The best dates are about as follows: Matthew, A. D., 38; Mark, A. D., 68; Luke, A. D., 50; John, A. D., 90.

According to these dates, Matthew wrote at least five years after Jesus was crucified. If the book was not divinely inspired, Matthew had to remember every quotation from Jesus and everybody else he quoted. Not a single quotation is accurate, but only as he remembered. According to this opinion the Sermon on the Mount is not as Jesus said it, but only as Matthew remembered it after five years with things crowding in on his mind every day. The same would be true of other discourses and conversations. This is absurd. Nobody except one who denies inspiration could believe so absurd a thing. An unbeliever in the Bible can believe anything if it suits him. But the case of Mark is even more remarkable on the theory that there was no inspiration. He was not with Jesus at all, but went with Peter on his preaching tours. He got every quotation from Peter and, of course, got it only as Peter remembered it, and then, after several more years, wrote it down as he remembered it from Peter. He lost what Peter forgot and then what he forgot until he wrote it. So, not a single quotation is accurate, according to those who deny divine inspiration. He wrote it 35 years after it transpired according to our best dates. Who could believe that he could remember all that accurately after 35 years? Nobody, except a skeptic on Bible matters. Divine inspiration is much easier to believe than such an idiotic absurdity as that a man could get it all accurately

second-hand and remember so many details of speech and actions as long as 35 years.

But the case of Luke is still worse. He was not even a Jew. He wrote A. D., 50. He learned his gospel from Paul, according to the skeptics. To make it worse, Paul was not with Jesus, but got what he remembered about it from what somebody else remembered, then told Luke the part of it that he remembered and then Luke wrote down only what he remembered. So, if we deny inspiration, there is nothing accurate in Luke. Nobody could

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Listen In, WRR, 7:30
A. M., Sunday



The editor is so proud of his wife and baby, and of this new picture of them that he prints their picture here. Sarah Joy was born September 27th on our sixteenth wedding anniversary. She is the sixth girl. Her sisters are: Grace, 15; Mary Lloys, 12; Jimmae Elizabeth, 10; Jessie Ruth, 9; and Joanna, 6. Mrs. Rice was Miss Lloys Cooke. She is a graduate of Decatur Baptist College, graduated from Baylor University with A. B. degree, and took two years work in the Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary with her husband. She teaches a class of young women, is a good soul winner, and is greatly loved not only in the church at Dallas, but in many places in the nation, wherever she has gone in revivals with her husband. The editor thanks God for his wife. "Mother" and I rejoice in all of our children which God has given us, and the whole family is delighted with Sarah Joy.

THE BABY

Another little wave
Upon the sea of life;
Another soul to save,
Amid its toils and strife.

Two more little feet
To walk the dusty road;
To choose where two paths meet.
The narrow, or the broad.

Two more little hands
To work for good or ill;
Two more little eyes;
Another little will.

Another heart to love,
Receiving love again;
And so the baby came,
A thing of joy and pain.

— Anon.

— Psalm 18:1

"THE GOODNESS OF GOD LEADETH THEE TO REPENTANCE" — Rom. 2:4.

"THE LOVE OF GOD IS SHED ABROAD IN OUR HEARTS BY THE HOLY GHOST WHICH IS GIVEN UNTO US" — Rom. 5:5.

"IF ANY MAN LOVE NOT THE LORD JESUS CHRIST, LET HIM BE ACCURSED" — I Cor. 16:22.

By John R. Rice

Love is the grand theme of the Bible. Hundreds of times through these divine pages we read of love. But usually it is the love of God described there. "Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins" (I John 4:10).

How marvelous is that love of God! "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:16). Again, "God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sin-

ners, Christ died for us" (Rom. 5:8).

The Bible is full of the love of God but there, too, we find that man can love God and that those devout souls who know Him do love Him. There are many exhortations for people to love God. In truth, "He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love" (I John 4:8). David loved God and said so. How many times the saints of God in all these ages have read in the Psalms the inspired heart-cries of David and there found expressed the emotions of their own hearts. The Psalms show us the rejoicings, the repentings, the resolutions and the praises that the Holy Spirit puts in the heart and soul of a child of God in response to the problems and sins and failures and victories and blessings of this life.

"I WILL love thee, O Lord, my strength," cried David. "The Lord is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust; my buckler, and the horn of my salvation, and my high tower."

In Psalms 116 he cries out, "I love the Lord, because he hath heard my voice and my supplications. Because he hath inclined his ear unto me, therefore will I call upon him as long as I live." God's blessings compel love in ev-

ery grateful heart, so David promises "I will pay my vows unto the Lord now in the presence of all his people." In Psalms 31:23 we are commanded, "O love the Lord, all ye his saints." Let us join David in these testimonies and holy resolves to love the Lord.

Everybody ought to love the Lord. All saved persons do love the Lord. A Christian's love can be perfected in obedience. Love is largely a matter of the will and choice; we can love the Lord as we ought to.

Everybody Ought to Love the Lord

Here is the simplest and plainest axiom of human duty. If there is a God, He ought to be loved. If this God made us, body and soul, mind and spirit, then we are His and not to love Him would be hideous rebellion. If this eternal God who made us, also loves us, daily keeps us alive and pours out blessings on every hand out of His mercy, then not to love God is the basest ingratitude, inexcusable and criminal. And last of all, if the love of this eternal God and Creator and Upholder is so great toward us that He would give His only begotten Son to die for us, and give us His Word to tell about it, and send us His pleading Holy Spirit to seek us, then for a man not to love God

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 2)

European War Involving The World Foretold

10 Dictators Coming, Restoration of Roman Empire, Rise of Antichrist, and Last World War Foretold in Scriptures

The Meaning of World-Wide Troubles With Labor, Communism, Fascism, Dictators, Armament Race, and Future in Italy and Russia With Their Allies Taught From Plain Scriptures
Sunday Night by John R. Rice

Next Sunday night, February 27th, Pastor John R. Rice will preach on the headlines above at the Fundamental Baptist Tabernacle, 201 East Tenth Street, services beginning at 7:30. The world is shaken with fear. The United States and England are in a naval race with Japan, spending billions on battleships, submarines, airplanes, bombs, shells and poison gas. Russia, Germany, Italy, Japan, are already armed to the teeth. Hitler announces plans to take middle Europe, to swallow Austria and Czechoslovakia. A realignment of nations is taking place. England and France in an uproar. War shatters Spain and China. America declares new Monroe doctrine for South America. Japanese fishing fleet steals American salmon off Alaska. Communism in the labor movement and in pulpits is breaking down the morale of civilization. Practical atheism rules Russia, Germany, Japan, and threatens alarmingly in America. The Bible foretells the

present state of affairs. Come and hear this Bible message. Learn how ten dictators will arise, will restore the Roman Empire under one Iron man, the Man of Sin, how the Anti-Semitism now in Germany, Italy and elsewhere will lead to the last world war and the fall of the present civilization. A striking Scriptural, moving sermon with an evangelistic appeal, and the sweetest comfort for Christians. Do not miss this message! Bring friends, whether Christians or unsaved. They will be intensely interested and will be blessed. Pray that many will be saved.

Good music, sweet fellowship. The church that believes all the Bible, where soul winning is the main thing. No fanaticism, no date setting. Old time orthodox gospel preaching.

"And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh." (Luke 21:28).

Day of Fasting And Prayer In Dallas, Feb. 27

Special Blessings Last Sunday, Conversions, Additions, Testimonies

Next Sunday, February 27th, is to be a special day of fasting and prayer at the Fundamental Baptist Tabernacle. We will meet at 8:00 A. M. and prayer service will run until Sunday School scholars begin to assemble. We hope that most of the Sunday School teachers and many others will be with us for the early prayer meeting, to pray God's blessings upon the day. Then after Sunday School and the morning sermon, as many as care to do so will remain at the church instead of going home for lunch. We will spend the time in praise, with Scripture, confession, and particularly in prayer. We feel that since many people spend eight hours or more in a day's labor it ought to be a precious privilege to spend eight hours in the Lord's service on this day. Those who desire to do so will fast through the noon period and some perhaps through the day. People will come and go as they like. There will be no ostentation.

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Days of Fasting

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

We believe New Testament Christians fasted and that it is proper for Christians today, but we believe it ought not to be a matter of show. Rather, when Christians are sincerely burdened and desire to spend the time in prayer instead of eating and concentrate the attention upon the Lord instead of upon food and other bodily matters, it is proper to fast. It is likely that sometime in the afternoon, if all hearts seem assured of God's blessing and feel that we have the request we desire of Him or if God seems to say, "It is enough," then the prayer service will come to an end. Then promptly at 6:30 the men of the church will assemble in the pastor's study as they regularly do for an hour of Scripture and prayer and sharing our burdens, preceding the evening service.

This all day service of prayer is open to the public and all who love the Lord and want to pray with us are welcome. It grows out of two prayer services in the past week. On Saturday morning some of the office workers and my daughter and I had a special time of Bible study and prayer, and the need was laid upon our hearts for more waiting upon God until He answered some of our prayers. At the same time other members of the church, feeling the need for more prayer, arranged to come to our home Saturday night. A number of women met there in earnest prayer and their hearts were lightened as the Lord met with them. I came in late and joined with them in prayer and discussion. There it seemed laid on my heart to announce this all day meeting.

Special Blessings Last Sunday

Last Sunday was a day of blessing for which we thank God. Sunday morning the pastor spoke upon the words of Paul from Acts 20:22-24 and from the account of how the heroes of the faith in old times sacrificed and suffered and were tortured because of their faith (Heb. 11:35-38). It was a very tender hour. The pastor challenged his people to be willing to give up anything on earth, to lay down life itself if need be, for Christ. The story of John and Betty Stam was given and how they died for Christ at the hands of Chinese Communists; the story of Lucille Ragan, a classmate of the pastor who died recently in Africa after a wonderful work of soul winning among negroes; the story of a Jewish brother we know, who, like Paul, suffered the loss of all things and counted them nothing for Jesus' sake. God moved on the hearts of many as we searched our hearts, to be willing to go anywhere and lay all on the altar for Jesus. It was stressed that out of this church ought to go missionaries to the end of the world, and we began to earnestly

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JOHN R. RICE, EDITOR, Pastor of Fundamental Baptist Church

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"I Will Love Thee, O Lord, My Strength"

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

would mean that he is so criminally debased and wicked that only the eternal torment of a damned soul would be his proper end and reward!

And all these suppositions above are true. There is a great God who made us. He loves us and provides for us. Every good and perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning (James 1:17). He gave His Son to die for us. His all-enveloping, over-brooding love surrounds us with mercies as many as the sands

pray that that would be the case. One young woman, after the service was dismissed, told the pastor she felt called of God to be a missionary. She was baptized only a few weeks ago. Another teen-age girl who had trusted Christ in the Sunday School, claimed Christ openly.

Sunday night a large number of visitors were present with us in the evangelistic service. Some were here from Rising Star, from Forney, and other places that we do not recall. There were also many visitors from various parts of Dallas.

Two held their hands for prayer. When the invitation was given, first a gray-headed man came soberly and earnestly to the front to claim Christ as Saviour. Upon inquiry we found that he had made a profession years ago but had drifted far away from God. Soon a woman came with tears to accept Christ as Saviour. The pastor had met her at the door and inquired after her soul and said an earnest word. She came without personal work, openly and boldly.

We turned then for a time to public testimonies. The Spirit of God was moving on the hearts of the people and many praised the Lord. During this time of testimony a man and wife came forward for membership in the church as candidates for baptism. They had been saved two weeks ago in the Sunday night service. They were received and someone went after clothes for them in which they could be baptized, and the service proceeded. In the midst of testimonies and choruses, another woman came for membership. The Matthews Sisters' Quartette sang and a young woman who had been a backslider came back to Christ and offered herself for membership in the church. They sang again and her two unsaved sisters, young women, each trusted Christ as Saviour and came forward to claim Him and join the church for baptism. We were happy in these eight adults who came forward, and particularly that there was such a quiet, powerful moving of the Spirit that continued. When the people were dismissed, most did not go home but stayed for the baptizing. Almost every Sunday now for months we have baptized and were happy that at the last moment others came to be baptized last night.

We praise God for His blessings but we are hungry for a great revival and covet the prayers of others who love our Saviour, that He may have His way with us and that the Spirit of God may move in great power upon all who attend our services here.

Those who can be invited to worship with us and particularly to have part in any or all of the day of prayer next Sunday. If you cannot attend, then join us in prayer at home, if God lays it on your heart.

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of the seas, as fresh every day as the morning dew, as fragrant as the breath of a flower! God calls us, warns us, seeks us, pleads with us! He offers free pardon for our sins, peace for our minds, Heaven for our home. He offers joy instead of sorrow, rest instead of burdens, salvation instead of condemnation, everlasting life instead of everlasting death. Life itself is His gift. Food is His bounty. Health is His present. He giveth the power to get wealth. The love of mother and father, of sweet-heart, of wife, of baby, and dear friend is but the faint reflection of His great love. God is light and so there is no light but comes from His presence. The sun, moon and stars shine only because He said, "Let there be light." Just so God is love, and there is no love but comes because God planned it and willed it. His love is so abundant that He pours it through every channel to the heart of every human being He has created and sustained and purchased. Oh, the love of God! How man ought to love God! It ought to be the most natural thing in the world for a human being to adore the Creator, to delight in Him, to seek Him, to praise Him. He is altogether lovely and the fairest of ten thousands. One who does not love God is to be branded as an awful sinner deserving only of death and torment and headed for the ruin which is his due!

So the Bible teaches. The first and greatest commandment is "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind" (Matt. 22:37, 38). This includes the first section of the Ten Commandments. Jesus also said, "And the second is like unto it." Again we are told that "Love is the fulfilling of the law" (Rom. 13:10). The wise preacher with the highest that human philosophy could attain, in Ecclesiastes 12:13 said, "Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man." If by the Spirit's help he should have seen a little deeper, he would add that the fear is reverential and Godly trust, and that keeping God's commandments is a matter of the heart. Sin shows in the life only because the heart does not perfectly love God.

God's Love Should Awaken Love
In Every Heart

God's goodness is like the continual wooing of a lover. "The goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance" (Rom. 2:4). How well I remember when I wooed and won my dear wife. When we were students in Baylor University together at Waco, I worked hard to earn my tuition and board and other expenses. I carried the mail for the University Sub-Post Office, I milked cows, I dried dishes, I clerked in the book store. Sometimes I wore patched clothing to classes. Sometimes in the cafeteria my lunch was buns and potatoes and gravy, and yet I found ways and means to carry the gifts that my love dictated to the girl that I loved and whose hand was even then promised me.

She liked candy — not a little bag of gumdrops, not a 5c bar of candy. No, her favorite was "King's Nut Trio." It came in golden three-decked boxes, Brazil nuts and almonds and pecans dipped in the richest chocolate, and it cost me one dollar and a half per pound! But bless her dear heart, she got her candy many the time and I felt that if she would but love me she might have all that my labor and planning and devotion could provide.

I will never forget when we went to the Junior-Senior Banquet. I was a Senior and she was a Junior. The Juniors entertained the Seniors in the Gold Room of the Raleigh Hotel. She would be beautifully gowned and no one must outshine my sweetheart on that great night. I will never forget the long-stemmed hot-house American Beauty roses that I bought her for that occasion though they cost me three dollars per half dozen! I never read a book that I delighted in but I marked it for her. I never was moved by a glowing sunset but I must tell her about it. I never thanked God for a blessing, I think, without pouring out

to her my joys. No work was hard if she were pleased with it and no road was long if she were at the end of it! I wrote her daily month in and month out for four years if we were away from each other. Unworthy as I am, I do not see how she could have helped loving me. My love gave all it had and demanded love in return.

And I think in some small measure this is a parable of the love of God for sinners. His tender compassion never sleeps in the night. His love knows no bounds of time or distance or even of wickedness. No wonder that David cried out,

"Whither shall I go from thy spirit? or whither shall I flee from thy presence?"

"If I ascend up into heaven, thou art there; if I make my bed in hell, behold, thou art there."

"If I take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,

"Even there shall thy hand lead me, and thy right hand shall hold me."

"If I say, Surely the darkness shall cover me, even the night shall be light about me."

"Yea, the darkness hideth not from thee; but the night shineth as the day: the darkness and the light are both alike to thee."

"For thou hast possessed my reins; thou hast covered me in my mother's womb." — Psa. 139:7-13.

Jesus prayed for those who slew Him and wept over a Jerusalem full of murderers. He received the kiss of the traitor, Judas, and called him yet, "Friend." He stilled the weeping of the woman which was a sinner and sent her away in peace, forgiven. Abraham spoke with the tenderness of God when he said to the rich man in Hell, "Son, remember!" In all the universe of God there is not one sinner so mean, so wicked, so debased but that if he would, he could be loved of God yet and forgiven.

The love of God is greater far Than tongue or pen can ever tell;

It goes beyond the highest star, And reaches to the lowest hell. The guilty pair, bowed down with care,

God gave His Son to win; His erring child He reconciled, And pardoned from his sin.

When hoary time shall pass away, And earthly thrones and kingdoms fall;

When men who here refuse to pray, On rocks and hills and mountains call;

God's love, so sure, shall still endure,

All measureless and strong; Redeeming grace to Adam's race — The saints' and angels' song.

Could we with ink the ocean fill, And were the skies of parchment made;

Were every stalk on earth a quill, And every man a scribe by trade;

To write the love of God above Would drain the ocean dry; Nor could the scroll contain the whole,

Tho' stretched from sky to sky.

Oh, love of God, how rich and pure!

How measureless and strong! It shall forever more endure — The saints' and angels' song.

— F. M. Lehman.

How can sinners resist such love of God? How can sinners refuse such offers of mercy? How can sinners refuse to love our God and Saviour who loves us so? Yet men do resist God, reject His mercy, deny His Son and resist His Spirit. And that itself is all the proof any man needs of the awful depravity of the human race. There ought to be, there must be, there is a Hell of torment for Christ-rejecting sinners who will not love such a God as ours and such a Saviour as He offers us.

Many Men Hate God and His Son
Jesus Christ

Sometimes sinners have told me, (CONTINUED ON PAGE 3)

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"I Will Love Thee, O Lord, My Strength"

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2)

"I suppose everybody loves God." And I have been compelled to answer that they were greatly mistaken. Multitudes do not love God; rather they hate Him. I think all men have some sense of obligation to God and only a fool even deceives himself enough to say that there is no God. I think perhaps all men in some sense fear God. Men realize that they ought to love God, and yet they do not.

Let us settle this by the words of Jesus Christ: "No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon." (Matt. 6:24). If we take the literal meaning of the words above, then it appears that those who do not serve God do not love Him. Some love God and serve Him, some love Satan and serve him. Jesus said to the Pharisees, "Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning..." (John 8:44). And Jesus said that they would murder Him because their father, Satan, was a murderer and they would lie because Satan was a liar and the father of it.

Let us make it plain that Jesus Christ is God in the flesh. No man can come to the Father but by Jesus Christ. He said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life; no man cometh unto the Father, but by me" (John 14:6). In Him is all the fullness of the Godhead bodily (Col. 2:9). Christ is the express image of the divine Person (Heb. 1:3). God the Father has given all authority in Heaven and earth into the hands of His dear Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ who died for sinners (Matt. 28:18). It is He who will be the Judge of sinners who reject Him as surely as He is the Saviour of sinners who accept Him. To love God is to love the Father. For Jesus said, "I and my father are one" (John 10:30).

So we have here the plain teaching of Jesus Christ, "Either he will hate the one and love the other; or else he will hold to the one and despise the other." Either you love Jesus Christ and hate the devil, and sin, or you love Satan and hate Jesus Christ. You would not like to say that you hate Christ. It would not sound well among the people where you pretend to be moral and clean and good. But the single fact is, dear sinner, whom God loves, if you do not love Jesus Christ, you hate Him. If you do not hold to Him, you despise Him. If you hold on to Satan, then that is proof enough that you despise Christ. Jesus said again, "He that is not with me is against me; and he that gathereth not with me scattereth" (Luke 11:23).

Do not deceive yourself, reader, religious leaders in the time of Christ pretended to love God. They went through forms of worship. They prayed, they fasted, they tithed, they attended public services, they read the Bible. Outwardly they were moral and religious. And yet they hated Jesus Christ. They lied about Him, they persecuted Him. Finally they had Him crucified. They murdered Him, and then gave Him vinegar with gall and mocked Him while He died! All their pretense of loving God was a lie, a wicked, hellish lie! They were like whited sepulchres, beautiful outwardly, but full of dead men's bones. They appeared righteous to men, but within were full of extortion and excess and all uncleanness. Small wonder that Jesus said to them seven times, "Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites!" (Matt. 23). And again, "Ye serpents, ye generation of vipers, how can ye escape the damnation of hell?" (Matt. 23:33). So it is with you, dear, deceived, sinning man, if in your heart you do not love Jesus Christ. If it came to a show-down with you, as it did with those Pharisees and scribes, you, too, would cry out, "Let Him be crucified! Let Him be crucified!" Those who do not love Jesus Christ hate Him, He said. Those who do not cling to Him or hold to Him despise Him. There is no half way ground. It is either love or hate for Jesus Christ. If you have not trusted Him, have not penitently

looked to Him for forgiveness, and have not received a new birth from God, then, I say it sadly, you are the enemy of Jesus Christ. You hate Him like those who crucified Him and are condemned like they.

This Hate of Jesus Christ Is Why Men Are Condemned to Hell

In John 3:18 we are told that "He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God." Is that too harsh? Does it seem such a little thing for which a man must go to torment, just because he does not believe on Christ, trust Him for salvation? The verses which follow explain that thus: "And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved. But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God" (John 3:19-21). There it is again. All who trust in Christ come to the light. Every sinner who in his heart longs for righteousness, longs to please God, seeks after God, will trust in Christ for salvation the first time he ever hears the gospel. He will come to the light "that his deeds may be manifest that they are wrought in God." But those who reject Christ and do not trust Him for salvation are those who hate Him and love their sin. "Men love darkness rather than light, because their deeds are evil." Christ is the Light, but "everyone that doeth evil, HATETH THE LIGHT." That, Jesus said, is the reason that sinners do not come to Him and trust Him. Sinners are condemned to Hell because they hate Jesus Christ. They love their sins and hold tight on to their sins, despising Jesus and despising the great God who is His Father and our Creator. It is a terrible doctrine, but it is true that all who do not love Jesus Christ are condemned, and rightfully so, to eternal condemnation. Oh, sinner, if you do not love Him, how can you face death and judgment and eternity? Nothing surely could reveal your wickedness more than the fact that you do not love the lovely Christ, our Saviour and our Lord.

God Will Put Love In Your Heart

I know how helpless a sinner must feel if God requires any righteous thing from us at all. A dear woman who was for years a Seventh Day Adventist came to me with a burdened heart and with tears and said, "I have tried and tried but I cannot get peace. I am simply afraid I will never make it. I cannot live well enough to keep the law and be saved." I assured her that every other person who ever tried it had come to the same conclusion and properly so. If any sinner reads this today with a solemn heart and admits that you ought to love God, surely you must be reminded that "in me (that is, in my flesh) dwelleth no good thing" (Rom. 7:18). By myself, as I am according to the flesh, I am wicked. Not only am I sinful by nature, a nature which I inherited from Adam, a sinner, and from all the long line of my ancestry since Adam who were sinners, all, all sinners! I am not only a sinner by birth, I say, but God's mercy be upon me, I am, I find, a sinner by choice! My nature runs after sin as naturally as water flows down hill. As swallows fly home in the evening, my flesh is pulled toward wickedness.

Cockle-burrs and weeds do not grow more naturally in rich soil than sin grows in my poor heart. Is that your case, sinner? Do you, too, find yourself unable to do right, unable to please God? Do you find, to your sorrow, that you do not love God as you ought? Then, alas! what shall a sinner do? Thank God, we have the answer in God's Word. Romans 5:5 says:

"And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us."

Here is the way we can love God. If we turn in humble confession and repentance toward God and trust in Jesus Christ, the sinner's Friend and Substitute, to be our Redeemer and Saviour, then the Holy Spirit of God sheds abroad the love of God in our hearts! A sinner has no capacity to love God of himself but God will put the love in his heart when he trusts in Jesus Christ. One who trusts in Christ is then born again, born of the Spirit (John 3:5) and the Holy Spirit coming in, works in that heart what the heart cannot do for itself. The Holy Spirit scatters everywhere in our hearts the love of God. So it is that sinners come to love God not out of their goodness but out of His goodness.

Did you ever notice that in the story of the prodigal son and the loving father in Luke, chapter fifteen, the father furnished everything for his sinning son? The son brought nothing with him, no shoes, no robe, no food, no ring, no joy and no fitness for sonship. He himself admitted he was fit only to be a hired servant at very best, but when the poor, tired, penitent sinner returned, the father ran to meet him and fell on his neck and kissed him. He furnished a robe for his body like God furnishes the robe of righteousness of His dear Son for sinners. He furnished the ring, the signet of sonship and authority like God puts the assurance of salvation in the heart and on the records in Heaven. He gave him shoes like God gives the sinner the shoes of the preparation of the gospel of peace that he may testify to those who were once so undone themselves. The father gave the son the feast of the fatted calf and oh, what a feast of rejoicing God gives when a sinner comes home! There is rejoicing in the presence of the angels, the joy-bells ring in Heaven and

"Tongue can never express
The sweet peace, joy and rest
Of a soul in its earliest love."

So at the wedding feast the King provided the wedding garments and none were admitted without one (Matt. 22:11, 12). Isn't it fitting, then, dear sinner, that we who are enemies of God by nature and cannot love Him aright by nature even if we would, are thus provided with divine love in our hearts, love the leaps up to meet the love which God extends to us?

We may safely say, then, that all who are born again do love God. "He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love" (I John 4:8). Truly, then, we who are saved "love him, because he first loved us" (I John 4:19). Jesus said, "If God were your Father, ye would love me" (John 8:42). And the divinely inspired apostle Paul said that "if any man love God, the same is known of him" (I Cor. 8:3). To love God truly means that we have been saved and to be saved means that the Holy Spirit has wrought in our hearts a love for God.

Christian Love Sometimes Varies and Wanes

It is a sad thing that the love of a Christian is not perfect, since Christians are not perfect. In these last wicked days we are in it is prophesied that "the love of many shall wax cold" (Matt. 24:12). To such people Jesus sent the message that "Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love" (Rev. 2:4). Christians do not lose their love but they sometimes lose the joy they had at first, the freshness and sweetness that was in their first love. But every saved person still has love for God whether it is his first love or a love somewhat cooled down by the care and deceitfulness of this world.

When I was a boy, in a revival meeting a man for whom Christians had long prayed, came back to God. We had supposed him an unregenerate sinner, but weeping, he stood before the congregation and said, "Twenty years ago I was saved. Since that time I have wandered far in sin. Sometimes I myself doubted if I were saved. But always in my heart, unseen by the world, there was a little flame that never went out. I could not destroy it. God would not let me go!" Surely that must

Reader's Comments

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"Dear Brother Rice:

"I want to renew my paper again. It has been a wonderful blessing to me ever since I took it, and it has helped me to understand the Scriptures better. I really would be lost without it. You must have a lot of prayer on the sermons in this paper because it has helped other folks out that I know of."

"Your sermon on tobacco was certainly inspired of God, for an old man ninety-one years old who had used tobacco all his life, quit smoking after he read your sermon."

"Perhaps you will never know the good you have given to God's children through this little paper, and also the people that have found Christ."

"I am also having a wonderful time studying the Bible lessons on Matthew."

"I am enclosing \$1.00 for four subscriptions to people who need the gospel very much. Please pray much for these friends, and also for myself."

"May God richly bless you throughout your ministry and give you many souls for your labor."

"Yours in Christ,

(Signed) "Mrs. R. B.

Inspiration of Gospels

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

believe it was all accurately remembered and passed on third or fourth-hand except one who has a skeptical mind. A skeptic can believe anything except it be in the Bible.

But most amazing of all is John's Gospel. He wrote A. D. 90 and had to remember discourses, conversations, and private conferences 57 years and write all of it down truly and accurately. He surely had a great memory at that advanced age! It would be difficult to imagine anything more absurd. A man who can believe that can believe the most unreasonable things that the wildest imagination could invent.

A most amazing thing is that all these four men wrote in perfect harmony with each other. So great a lawyer as Simon Greenleaf, the world's expert on evidence, was not able to find a single discrepancy in their records. Had they trusted to their memories or the memories of others they would have contradicted each other on every page. Read Greenleaf's Testimony of the Evangelists.

The truth is that the Gospels were inspired and are reliable in every statement. People ought to teach their children that the Bible is inspired by the infinitely wise God. It should be settled in their minds and treasured in their hearts.

(We thank God for this clear, splendid editorial by Dr. McConnell, insisting that "the gospels were inspired and are reliable in every statement." With such Christians we have sincere fellowship and bid God speed to this message. — Ed.)

be the experience of many a child of God.

Do you remember how Simon Peter left his ministry and apostleship and went back to the fishing business after Jesus rose from the dead? He had disgraced himself and his profession. He had cursed and sworn and denied Jesus Christ. I suppose he had the scorn of unthinking Christians and doubtless

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 4)

"The Greatest Blessings I Have Ever Known"

We received another fine letter from Brother Arthur G. Neilson on the Texas State Prison Farm, whose recent letter was published in "The Sword of the Lord." Our friend has gotten many letters and wants those who wrote him to know that he will answer them as soon as possible. Here are some extracts from his letter. Pray for this brother who has found Christ in the penitentiary and let any unsaved reader heed his exhortation and find Christ before you come to such trouble.

"Sugarland, Texas
Central No. 2
February 14, 1938

"Dear Brother Rice:

"You and your paper, *The Sword of the Lord*, have been and are yet the greatest blessings I have ever known. Since you printed my letter of two weeks ago, letters have been pouring in full of blessings and joy from unknown friends, Christian folks who love the Lord and are praying for my dear mother and myself. Tears of joy have filled my eyes this past week. Those letters from hospitals and bed patients, aged and young alike, some in worse condition than I, praying for me, a man who has made a mistake and received a prison term... It isn't any honor to a man to get into prison, but if that is the only way he will seek and find the Saviour who died for our sins, then it is best. It is better to die a Christian in prison and have eternal life, than to die a sinner and be cast into Hell. This prison is where I found my Saviour and accepted Him, and He is going through this place of trials and temptations with me. Praise His name! I read your plea to sinners in your paper — how many heed your call, I don't know, but from my own experience, I trust and pray there will be many. But some like myself, just won't have time to listen until sickness, injury, prison term or death overtakes them. I earnestly pray that those sinners will listen to you now while they can enjoy Christian fellowship and avoid eternal punishment and many heartaches to their loved ones..."

"Yours in His name,
(Signed) "Arthur G. Neilson"

ARLBERG, ARKANSAS

"Dear Brother Rice:
"Find enclosed fifty cents for your paper. I would send some subscriptions for others, but I am not able just now. I sent four subscriptions for others about six months ago, and, thank God, two of them have been converted. I will try to help you out some in the good work later... May the Lord bless you and your good work."

"Yours in Christ,
"C. E. T.

ELMO, TEXAS

"I have been thinking I would write you and tell you I loved you more and more and thank you for your good paper. It does me so much good."

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"I Will Love Thee, O Lord, My Strength"

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3)

the mockery of the unsaved about him. But worse than all, he had the burning accusation of his own conscience! He remembered, I am sure, the pitiful eyes of Jesus as they turned and looked at him when the cock crowed the third time, and Simon Peter, the denier, went back into the dark and wept bitterly. So Peter seems to have given up and went back to the old trade again. But after toiling all night on the little Sea of Galilee with no success, his heart must have been heavy when Jesus appeared on the shore. It is told in the twenty-first chapter of John. John, the beloved, the spiritually-minded, perceived that it was Jesus. With overflowing heart Simon Peter girded on his leather fisherman's coat and swam to the shore. No boat was fast enough for him that day! Disappointed, a failure, yet with a burning fire in his bones, Peter was drawn like steel to a magnet. It may have seemed shameless but full well I know how Peter felt. After sin and defeat and failure and heartbreak, I, too, have run back to God because I could do nothing else. He could me, He loved me, and the answering pain in my heart could find no ease until I knelt sobbing at His feet!

Jesus cooked the breakfast that spring morning, broiled the fish on an open fire and when they had eaten with the old time intimate

fellowship Jesus turned to Peter and said, "Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me more than these?" Peter answered, "Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee." Jesus commanded him, "Feed my lambs." Then the second time Jesus said, "Lovest thou me?" And then again when the answer and command was repeated, He said the third time, "Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me?" Peter's heart was altogether broken. As a skillful surgeon might probe deep into a bullet wound to find the slug of lead, so the question of Jesus Christ the third time cut deep in Peter's heart until he could know and all the world could know what was there, and Peter cried out, "Lord, thou knowest all things; thou knowest that I love thee!" Peter did love Jesus. He loved Him though he denied Him. He loved Him when he had cursed and sworn. He loved Jesus when he had denied the ministry. And, thank God, Peter was right. Jesus knew it! Well He might know it, for He Himself had put that un-failing spring of love in the heart of Peter when He saved him. Through the Holy Spirit He had shed abroad the love of God in Peter's heart.

It is a marvel of marvels that the love of God is unfailing. A mother may forget her child, but Christ never forgets His own. "Neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Rom. 8:38, 39). Ah, yes, but there is another side to that blessed story and that is this; nothing can stifle, nothing in Heaven or earth or Hell can utterly kill the love of God which is put in the heart of a child of God when he is born again. God not only loves us with an unfailing love. Blessed thought, He puts in our heart an unfailing love for Him. I have failed Him miserably. Like David I could sometimes say, "My tears have been my meat day and night" (Psa. 42:3). But at the same time I could cry out with David, "I love the Lord, because he hath heard my voice and my supplications" and I could resolve firmly, "I WILL love thee, O Lord, my strength."

Before Jesus came it was written of Him that "a bruised reed shall he not break, and smoking flax shall he not quench" (Matt. 12:20). The fire that is in my heart seems sometimes to smolder. Like those of the five wise virgins, my lamp needs trimming but it never goes out for He who put the oil in my lamp put the light on my wick and He will not quench the smoking flax and He will not break this poor, bruised reed of mine, so poor an instrument of music it is. But He loves it and has claimed it for Himself and one day this bruised reed will be replaced and will make divine music in the ears of the God who made it and with the breath of His Son who saved me. Praise be to God that every poor, backsliding heart can cry out, "Lord, thou knowest all things, thou knowest that I love thee!"

I thank God that a Christian can

grow to love Him better. If we keep His commands and do His will we find that the love of God is perfected in us (I John 2:5). As we read His Word, as we claim His promises, as we give free reign to the Holy Spirit without quenching or grieving Him, He will develop the love in our hearts until it burns in a holy conflagration.

Let every Christian, then, tell it abroad that we love God and let us boldly resolve and openly claim with David, "I will love thee, O Lord, my strength."

One Who Will Can Love God

It is refreshing and sweet to hear David say, "I will love thee, O Lord, my strength." Some people believe that love is a matter of accident like lightning, and no one can tell where it will strike. People speak of "falling in love" but that it not true. People walk into love and sometimes they very vigorously climb into it. It is not an accident that one loves God and another does not. Those who love God choose to love Him, determine to love Him, and so run to Him to have His love shed abroad in their hearts.

Some foolish women think they can hold their husband's love by all the arts of a flapper. They think that tricks of the beauty shop, of hair-dressing and powder and paint, the cut of a dress or the plucking of an eyebrow, a slender form or a school girl complexion will work the miracle of love in a man's heart. How foolish they are! Outward tricks may stir lust but we need to come back to the reverent conclusion that true and Godly married love is safeguarded by the firm Christian character and faithfulness of those who love. Any fool man could be attracted hither and yon by a youthful face and form and sex appeal if he was so minded. And likewise, any good man with a high and holy resolve can set himself to love the wife of his youth and put around their happiness the safe wall of his consecrated resolution, by the help of God. Love, I say, is largely a matter of choice. If human love has ever wandered from the paths of human righteousness, then we should remember that we need not be the slaves of passion. Where once we loved we can love again if we choose to do so. Christ commanded husbands to love their wives even as Christ loved the church (Eph. 5:25, 33; Col. 3:19), and Christ commanded wives to love their husbands (Titus 2:4). Love is a matter of duty. Where God commands, He gives the power to fulfill the commands. We can love as we ought.

So then let us who have been saved take courage. We can give ourselves to the love of God and with a holy resolve and earnest effort put ourselves in His will, seek to know Him better. God will direct our hearts into the love of God (II Thess. 3:5).

Sinner, you can love God. You ought to love God. Why not then completely surrender all to Jesus Christ, trust Him for forgiveness and let Him put in your heart the sweet love that passeth the love of woman; love greater than that of David and Jonathan? It is marvelous that God loves us. It is twice marvelous that he puts love in our own hearts and helps us fulfill His desires in response to His love.

A Curse On All Who Do Not Love Jesus Christ

The sin of not loving Christ is so awful, so wicked, so Hell-deserving, that the Apostle Paul was inspired by the Holy Spirit to say, "If any man love not the Lord Jesus Christ, let him be Anathema Maran-atha" (I Cor. 16:22). Anathema means *accursed*. And Maran-atha means "Our Lord cometh." Jesus Christ our Lord is coming! Let everyone who does not love Him be accursed! It will be sad to say, "Good bye" to lost loved ones, but every saint of God then will join in this prayer, "Let them be accursed!" And at the last great White Throne judgment of the unsaved dead when the wicked who do not love Christ, have not trusted Him, have not received Him, go away into everlasting condemnation, then not one voice will be raised in protest. If any man love not the Lord Jesus Christ, let him be accursed! Dear sinner, do not go on under this terrible curse because of your sinful rejection of Christ. Trust Him today! Open

your poor, wicked heart to His tender forgiveness. He has sought you so long. He loves you so much. Such a price has been paid for your redemption! There is no hope except in Jesus, no other name is given under Heaven among men whereby you must be saved.

"I love Him, I love Him,
Because He first loved me,
And purchased my salvation
On Calvary's tree."

If you will trust Him today with all your heart, you will find that you love Him.

Perhaps as you have read this message, your heart has been stirred to repent of your sins. Perhaps He has put love in your heart, and you find to your joy that you do love Him; not nearly so much as you ought, I know, but you do love Him — is that true? If so, won't you let me hear and I will rejoice with great joy.

If in your heart you will turn to Christ and trust Him and take Him today, then fill out the following statement and mail it to me or write me a letter or card. I will not make your name public unless you give your consent and I will not embarrass you. But if in your heart you love Jesus Christ and take Him as your Saviour and Lord, I beg you, claim Him today.

Rev. John R. Rice
201 East Tenth Street
Dallas, Texas.

Dear Brother Rice:

Having read the above sermon, I know I am a sinner and I confess that freely. I know that God loves me and that Jesus died for me. I here and now trust Him to forgive my sins and to shed abroad the love of God in my heart through the Holy Spirit. I turn to Jesus Christ, I claim Him and say, 'I will love thee, O Lord, my Strength!'

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